

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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INR-07 NSAE-00 INT-05 CEQ-01 NSF-02 L-03 IO-13 /061 W
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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2696

UNCLAS MOSCOW 00101

DEPT PLEASE PASS EPA FOR STROTHER

FOR EUR/SOV

EO 11652: NA
TAGS: SEVN UR US
SUBJECT: US-USSR ENVIRONMENTAL AGREEMENT: EARTHQUAKE PREDICTION
(02.09): A SOVIET EVALUATION OF BILATERAL EFFORTS IN SEISMIC
RESEARCH

1. EMBASSY RECEIVED JANUARY 4 FROM KAZAKOV OF HYDROMET UNDATED
LETTER FROM SADOVSKIY OF INSTITUTE OF EAREY PHYSICS TO FRANK PRESS,
DEPT OF EARTH AND PLANETARY SCIENCES, MIT, IN WHICH SADOVSKIY
PROVIDES HIS VIEWS ON THE SUCCESS OF BILATERAL COOPERATION IN AREA
IX, SEISMIC RESEARCH, ONE OF THE MOST INTERESTING COOPERATIVE
PROGRAMS UNDER THE ENVIRONMENTAL AGREEMENT.

2. ORIGINAL OF LETTER HAS BEEN POUCHED TO EPA FOR STROTHER. TEXT
OF LETTER, IN UNOFFICIAL TRANSLATION IS QUOTED IN FULL BELOW.

3. BEGIN QUOTE: DEAR DR. PRESS: IT IS MORE THAN THREE YEARS
SINCE WE DISCUSSED THE PROGRAM OF JOINT WORK ON EARTHQUAKE PREDIC-
TION. NOW IT IS POSSIBLE TO REVIEW THE RESULTS AND EVALUATE THEM.

4. WE UNDOUBTEDLY HAVE REACHED A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF THE
PROCESSES PREPARATORY TO AN EARTHQUAKE AND OF THE MECHANISM OF
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A SEISMIC SHOCK. TO THIS WE MAY CREDIT THE SUCCESSFUL JOINT
LABORATORY WORK ON EARTHQUAKE MODELLING. THE WORK ON IDENTIFYING
AREAS IN WHICH SEVERE EARTHQUAKES OCCUR HAS ALSO BEEN SUCCESSFUL,
DESPITE A FEW PROBLEMS.

5. YOU PARTICIPATE YOURSELF IN THE WORK IN THIS AREA AND KNOW IT

WELL. FROM OUR STANDPOINT, THE ENGINEERING SEISMOLOGY AREA IS DEVELOPING SUCCESSFULLY. OUR JOINT EFFORTS INDICATE THAT IT WILL BE POSSIBLE TO DETERMINE QUANTITATIVE CHARACTERISTICS OF STRONG EARTHQUAKES AND SO IMPROVE OUR METHODS OF MICROZONING SEISMIC REGIONS. DEFINITE SUCCESS MAY BE NOTED IN THE EXPERIMENTS INVOLVING THE BUILDING-GROUND SYSTEM IN DUSHANBE. HOWEVER, FINANCIAL PROBLEMS HAVE SLOWED DOWN WORK ON THIS TOPIC.

6. LESS SUCCESSFUL HAVE BEEN THE FIELD OPERATIONS. IN GARM THE PROBLEMS ARE CONNECTED WITH SEVERAL MALFUNCTIONS OF THE EQUIPMENT SENT FROM AMERICA. IN CALIFORNIA THE WORK, WHICH WAS BEING DONE BY THE GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, SUFFERS FROM A LACK OF SPECIALISTS WHICH PRECLUDES EXPERIMENTAL AND METHODOLOGICAL RESEARCH. YOU UNDERSTAND THAT IT IS NOT POSSIBLE FOR US TO SEND MORE OF OUR SCIENTISTS TO CALIFORNIA AND THAT WE CANNOT SEND OUR EQUIPMENT THERE. THIS IS PRECLUDED BY THE AGREED QUOTA AND BY THE FINANCING AVAILABLE. I DON'T KNOW WHAT WE CAN DO HERE, BUT THE USEFULNESS OF OUR PARTICIPATION IN THE WORK BEING DONE IN CALIFORNIA IS OBVIOUS, SINCE THE COMPARISON OF SEISMICITY IN CALIFORNIA AND CENTRAL ASIA IS ONE OF THE TASKS OF OUR JOINT WORK.

7. IF YOU HAVE ANY SUGGESTIONS ON THIS SUBJECT, DR. PRESS, PLEASE LET ME OR DR. WALLACE KNOW. I WOULD BE EXTREMELY INTERESTED TO HEAR YOUR OPINION OUR JOINT WORK. SINCERELY, MA SADOVSKIY. END QUOTE.
TOON

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NNN

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** UNCLASSIFIED

Message Attributes

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Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
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Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
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Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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